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Economic and Social Council

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Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 8-17 August 2017
Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits

Arabic-language version of the resolutions adopted at the first to tenth United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names

Summary**

Following the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and for the purpose of disseminating knowledge and information on the resolutions adopted at the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names to Arabic-speaking Member States, the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation under the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the National Geographic Information Institute, Republic of Korea, coordinated their efforts to translate the document prepared by Natural Resources Canada entitled "Resolutions adopted at the ten United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1998, 2002, 2007, 2012".[1] The aim was also to create a searchable database in Arabic for those resolutions, similar to the database established by the Group of Experts and available on its website.[2]

The references used in preparing the translation of the document were the *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names*,[3] and Arabic-language versions of the reports of the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Conferences on the

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report, which was prepared by Eman Ahmed Oraby (Egypt), Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) (email: emanorieby@gmail.com), is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/6/CRP.6.

[1] Available in English at https://unstats.un.org/UnSd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/RES_UN_E5120updated_1-10%20CONF.pdf.

[2] Available at http://www.ngii.go.jr/portal/ungn/mainEn.do.

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. M.01.XVII.7. Available at https://unstats.un.org/Unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/pdf/Glossry_of_terms_revised.pdf.

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Standardization of Geographical Names[4] and the *Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names*.[5]

The Arabic-language version of the document (E/CONF.105/6/CRP.6, annex) has been submitted to the secretariat of the Group of Experts and the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names for their consideration and for dissemination on the website of the Group of Experts[6] and of the Arab Division.[7]

It is hoped that the Arabic-language version of the document and the upcoming Arabic searchable database for resolutions will serve as valuable references for experts from Arab Member States on the resolutions adopted by the Conferences.

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[4] Available at https:///unstats.un.org/Unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/conferences.html.
[5] Available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesm/seriesm_88a.pdf.
[6] https://unstats.un.org/Unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/confGeneral.html.
[7] http://adegn.net/index.php/en/.

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Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 8-17 August 2017
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Tenth Conference (for distribution only)

National standardization of place names in Kazakhstan

Summary**

The national standardization of place names, as well as their registration, is carried out in accordance with article 4 (2) (13) of the Law of Kazakhstan on geodesy and cartography, adopted on 3 July 2002, and the requirements of the State programme on the functioning and development of languages for 2001-2010 and 2011-2020.

Since 2011, work has been carried out to update and complete the catalogue of maps at the scale of 1:25,000, which will be completed in 2017. By the end of 2017, the updated and completed gazetteers of 14 regions of Kazakhstan will be released. A total of approximately 170,000 toponyms will be in the database of the catalogue of topographic maps at the scale of 1:25,000. From 2018, monitoring of the database of the State catalogue of place names of Kazakhstan will be carried out in order to respond promptly to changes and maintain the information in the catalogue in accordance with the present realities.

In the context of ensuring the regular exchange of information about place name changes, the digital newsletter on place name changes of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is updated annually. The newsletter is published in accordance with the decision of the fourth session of the Inter-State Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing of the member States of CIS of 1993.

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Evgeniya Gesko, a department head handling thematic cartography and the State catalogue of place names. The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the languages of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/7/CRP.7.

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The President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, has tasked the Government with preparing for the transition from the Kazakh to the Latin alphabet. The unified standard for the new Kazakh alphabet and script in Latin should be developed by the end of 2017, after consultations with scientists and public representatives. The transition to the Latin alphabet is expected to be completed by 2025.

In 2017, experts of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names from Kazakhstan participated in the twenty-ninth session of the Group of Experts in Bangkok. The experts from Kazakhstan participated in all meetings of the working group on geographical names of the Inter-State Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing of the member States of CIS. The working group is tasked with ensuring the regular exchange of information about place name changes. The outcome of the cooperation was the joint preparation and annual updating of the digital newsletter on place name changes of the member States of CIS.

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Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 8-17 August 2017
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, its divisions, working groups and task teams since the Tenth Conference

Report of the Africa Central Division

Summary**

The report is focused on the main achievements of the Africa Central Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names since the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Emphasis is laid on the situation of member countries. Although the process of involving all the countries of the region is slow, the Division is consolidating smoothly.

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Michel Simeu Kamdem (Cameroon), Chair of the Africa Central Division. The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/8/CRP.8.

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Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 8-17 August 2017
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Tenth Conference (for distribution only)

National report — Cameroon

Summary**

The national report of Cameroon was prepared for presentation at the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, to be held in New York from 8 to 17 August 2017. It focuses on the situation in Cameroon in respect of geographical names and the main achievements that have been attained since the Tenth Conference.

Although Cameroon was among the first countries in Africa to create a national body on geographical names, the structure was never a functioning one. Such a situation has deeply affected the country's capacity to handle questions related to geographical names correctly and has resulted in difficulties in terms of settling on an in-depth process for the naming of places, given the multiplicity of actors operating in the field of geographical names without engaging in true cooperation, the diverse dimensions of the place-naming process and the absence of work, strictly speaking, on the standardization of geographical names.

Nevertheless, with the ongoing sensitization and initiatives emerging from diverse sources, Cameroon, similarly to Burkina Faso and Tunisia, will very soon be reviving its national commission on geographical names.

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report, which was prepared by Michel Simeu Kamdem (Cameroon), Chair, Africa Central Division, is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the languages of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/9/CRP.9.

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